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ADVERTISER'S

ANSWER

TO A

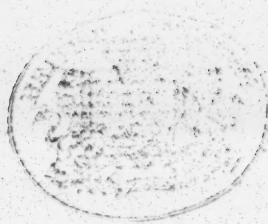
QUAKER'S LETTER,

CONCERNING A

COALITION.

DUBLIN:

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TO A
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My respected Friend,

THE Cause of my Silence, on the Subject you mention, was no other than this, that I knew nothing about it. I had heard, in common with every other Individual of this large City, that a Treaty was on Foot, for composing the Differences that have so long obstructed our social Happiness, as well as Trade, if not Equity and Justice too; and was sincerely pleased with the Prospect of better Times, and of a Return of *Concord* to this distracted Land. I waited impatiently for some certain Information to be communicated to the Publick, of the Terms of Accommodation; which, however, I knew, from the Nature of the Thing, could not be had, till the finishing

Hand was put to the Negotiation, and the Parties had consented to make it publick, if any Treaty were concluded.

You will observe, my good Friend, that of the two Parties, into which we are divided, one is supported by Power, and all the Friends it can create, who, like a disciplined Army, must obey Command, without enquiring into the Motives of Action, or Laws of Conduct in their Superiors; the other is held together by Consent only, and a *Union* formed for Preservation of Rights. Here, every Man is important; there, all but the Leaders insignificant. In the last, every one is Master of himself, and, if discontented, at Liberty to retire, and in consequence it may happen, as we vulgarly say, *so many Men so many Minds*; in the other, they must be all of one Mind, or, more properly, of *no Mind at all*, but as their Leaders infuse it. Look back then, and wonder at the Unanimity of *Ireland's* Friends for the Years that are past; and wonder still more, when you consider the *Men*, and the Qualities they must possess, who have held together this *willing Band*, without Power to command, or Ability to reward. They were held together, you may say, by their common Danger, as in a *leaky Ship* all Hands will work for their own Sake, as well as for the common Preservation. There is little Doubt but every Individual, who joined the *Patriots*, was under Conviction, that himself must suffer in the Ruin of his Country, and, if the Ship foundered, he must perish

perish with the rest ; and that this Consideration was a just and principal Motive for his Attachment ; but had every one crouded to put his Hand to the *Helm*, or insisted to direct what *Course* should be steered, I suppose it will be granted the Ship of the Commonwealth had been foundered long ago, or, at least, made the Sport of every Wave and Wind.

But to be more particular in answering your Doubts and *plain Questions* ; you ask, *if any thing can be so bad as Suspence ?* and wonder I should not let my Friends know the worst. As to my own Part, I have already accounted for my Silence, and you have, with equal Modesty and Sense, prevented an Answer, by immediately owning, that, perhaps, *you are too suspicious in your Zeal*. And very justly observe, ‘ it cannot be that those ‘ who have so long, and so much like Men, contended for Liberty and Independence to the ‘ Representative of the People, should now meanly truckle to Limitations for paltry Places and ‘ Employments ;’ but, in the next Paragraph, you add, ‘ What need have the Commons to ‘ condition with the L—d L——t ? let them do ‘ Friend *George’s* Business and their own !’ Now, if Friend *George’s* Business, and *their own*, (by which you must mean the national Business) can be better done by conditioning with the L—d L——t, than by a different Conduct, I persuade myself you would advise it. *Peace* is the End of *War*, and if a safe and honourable Peace can be had, who would refuse to ratify it ? Mistake me not,

not, my Friend, or think I am so much an Advocate for Peace as to *sue* for it on mean or hard Conditions. Our Friends, tho' ever ready to make Peace, are little fearful of the Events of a Contest, and, if I am rightly informed, never *made*, but *received* Overtures of Accommodation, which single Circumstance should induce us to believe, that, as they are under no Necessity of truckling, they will not comply with Proposals their Country may dislike, or, contrary to all Experience, be the less brave, because their Danger is small.

You take for granted, that a Condition is made, by which the Commons are ty'd up from inquiring into the *Male-Administration* of some Persons lately in Government. Though I do not believe it, I will suppose, for Argument, it may be so; and let us state the *Good*, or *Evil*, may arise from such a Concession. If, in return for this, it be stipulated, that no Alteration shall be made in *Money-Bills*; or injurious *Preambles* be inserted; that our Friends in Parliament, who were dismissed from any Share in the Government, and lost their Places, be restored, (for that was long complained of as a national Grievance, and very justly;) that the P——e, in pursuance of the universal Sense of the People, be left out of Government: I say, if this be done, I am at a Loss to know what more we want; but then you say, the *Price outweighs the Purchase*, if an *Inquiry* be *stopped*; now, let us see what an *Inquiry*, probably, might end in. It must be one or other of these, either an *Address* that the D— of D— be removed

removed from all Places of Trust and Profit ; or, an *Impeachment*. As to the first, he has no Place of Trust or Profit in *Ireland* ; and the Commons will hardly request he may be dismissed from *British* Places, or Councils. If it end in *impeaching*, before whom is the Complaint to be laid ? before the L—ds in *Westminster*, the Issue of which no one can tell, and it is not impossible their L—ps may be too busy, or too unwilling to meddle with it ; as I do not find an Instance on Record of any Impeachment from *Ireland* before that House, though some of *our Members* have given Evidence there collaterally.

But you say, *my Friend*, ceasing this *Inquiry*, will be a *Precedent* for Oppression. Now, doing nothing can be no *Precedent*, though I grant it may be an Encouragement to Oppression, and that a successful Representation of past Iniquity may deter the Practice for the future ; and if there were, as the general State of Affairs is now circumstanced, any Likelyhood of succeeding in it, you, and all the *Protestant Readers* in *Ireland*, had heard me speak in such a *Tone* ere now, that had left no Cause to complain of my Silence.

What I have here considered in your Letter, is all, (if I mistake not) material enough to require an Answer ; but I must beg leave to remark that your *Fears*, as well as *Censures*, are *premature*, and that you vary from the Maxim you set out on, ‘ That an upright Heart mistrusteth no ‘ Man without a Cause,’ when you talk of *dishonourable Gags*, and bringing their *publick Spirit*

to

to Market. If ever any one was to be rely'd on, the *Patriot* you question is the Man, and has given such Demonstrations of inflexible Integrity, that one less anxious than you are, about the *general* Welfare, or, to speak plain, less timid in his Trust of frail Man, had never entertained the least Suspicion that *twenty-one Months*, or as many Years, could *vary Nature and Reason* in his Breast.

I am far from condemning your Patriot Zeal, but believe, it is out of Place, at all Events: If a *Coalition* be forming, on just Grounds, and a good Bargain made for our Country, every good Patriot should rejoice in it; if Concessions be made, to the Detriment of our Country, a little Time will discover them, and they, in whom we have put our Trust, will be as odious to the Publick, as their Trust betray'd deserves, and which, I believe, they will not venture on for Reasons publick and private.

I am yours, &c.

The ADVERTISER.

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